

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for interactive communication, comprising the steps of:

gathering information about a topic;

5 analyzing said information to identify existing and potential issues;

selecting ones of said issues in accordance with selection criteria to form a set of selected issues;

formulating goals in respect of said selected issues;

preparing alternative scenarios for resolving said selected issues for meeting said goals;

10 evaluating said alternative scenarios; and

selecting at least one of said scenarios for meeting said goals.

2. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 1 including a step of determining said selection criteria.

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3. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 2, wherein said step of determining said selection criteria includes a step of interactively utilizing participation with others to carry out said determining.

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4. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of analyzing said information includes a step of interactively utilizing participation with others to carry out said analyzing.

5. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of selecting ones of said issues includes a step of interactively utilizing participation with others to carry out said selecting.

5 6. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 2, including a step of determining said given selection criteria utilizing participation with others to carry out said selecting.

10 7. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of formulating goals includes a step of interactively utilizing participation with others to carry out said formulating.

15 8. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 1, wherein said steps of preparing alternative scenarios and of evaluating said alternative scenarios includes respective steps of interactively utilizing participation with others to carry out said preparing and evaluating.

20 9. A method for interactive communication in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of selecting at least one of said scenarios for meeting said goals includes a step of interactively utilizing participation with others to carry out said selecting.

10. A method for interactive communication, comprising the steps of:
selecting a topic
gathering information about said topic;
25 analyzing said information to identify existing and potential issues;

selecting ones of said issues in accordance with given selection criteria to form a set of selected issues;

formulating goals in respect of said selected issues;

preparing alternative scenarios for resolving said selected issues for meeting said goals;

5 evaluating said alternative scenarios;

selecting at least one of said scenarios for meeting said goals; and

including a respective step of participation with others in any of the foregoing steps.

11. A method for interactive communication as recited in claim 10, wherein said
10 respective steps of participation with others includes public participation.

12. A method for interactive communication as recited in claim 11, wherein said
respective steps of public participation include interactive public participation.

13. A method for interactive communication as recited in claim 12, wherein said
15 respective steps of public participation include direct interactive public participation.

14. A method for interactive communication as recited in claim 11, wherein said
respective steps of public participation include a step of communication by utilizing the
20 World Wide Web or Internet.

15. A method for influencing a course of events in a topic, comprising the steps of:
selecting said topic, including exchanging information interactively with others;

gathering information about said topic, including exchanging information interactively with others;

analyzing said information to identify existing and potential issues, including exchanging information interactively with others concerning said analyzing;

- 5 selecting ones of said issues in accordance with selection criteria to form a set of selected issues, including exchanging information interactively with others concerning said selecting and said selection criteria;

formulating goals in respect of said selected issues including exchanging information interactively with members others concerning said formulating goals;

- 10 preparing alternative scenarios for resolving said selected issues for meeting said goals including exchanging information interactively with others concerning said preparing alternative scenarios;

evaluating said alternative scenarios, including exchanging information interactively with others concerning said evaluating; and

- 15 selecting at least one of said scenarios for meeting said goals, including exchanging information interactively with others concerning said selecting.

16. A method for influencing a course of events as recited in claim 15, wherein said exchanging information interactively with others includes public participation.

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17. A method for influencing a course of events as recited in claim 16, wherein said public participation includes a step of communication by utilizing the World Wide Web or Internet.

18. A method for influencing a course of events as recited in claim 15, wherein said steps
25 of said method are performed utilizing a programmable digital computer.